

control agent,” before mixing the first pulp suspension with a recycled pulp suspension, as required by claim 2, and other like claims in the application. The Office Action states that this step would have been obvious “in view of Rolf in order to save on costs and avoid wasting chemicals,” but Rolf actually suggests just the opposite.

In particular, Rohlf requires the use of a water soluble cationic polymer along with the high HLB nonionic surfactant. See p. 2, line 47. According to Rohlf, this cationic polymer attaches to freed pitch particles and “adhere[s] to the pulp fibers” so that the pitch is “thus removed from the papermaking system.” See p. 3, lines 35-36. The cationic polymer contemplated by Rohlf is the “second deposition inhibiting agent” specifically excluded in claim 2.

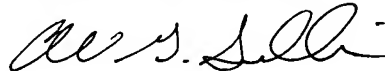
Moreover, there is no suggestion in Rohlf to remove this cationic polymer to arrive at the invention in claim 2. Rohlf states on page 6 at line 51 that the high HLB surfactant can be used at “full strength,” but only when applying the composition directly to felts. When the composition is applied to a pulp suspension as recited in claim 2, Rohlf plainly contemplates that a cationic polymer will also be added. See p. 2, line 47.

CONCLUSION

For the above and foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests an indication of patentable subject matter for claim 2 of the present application, in addition to claims 17, 18, and

20. To the extent any fee is required for the filing of this paper, the Commissioner of Patents, is hereby authorized to charge such fee to PTO Deposit Account No: 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,



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